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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE,
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK, SOUTH.
FARMERS' COOPERATIVE DEMONSTRATION WORK.
Washington, D. C.

Reverend and Dear Sir:

Through the kindly cooperation of the Federal Council of Churches, and especially of Dr. Worth M. Tippy, Secretary of the General War Time Commission of the Churches, the Department of Agriculture desires to bring to you a very important message.

The Government is appealing to the Ministers for their assistance in solving some of the great problems of the war. The time has come when each of these problems, especially food production and food conservation, must be made a consecration like the giving of our boys. Now that they are in France laying down their lives for our liberty and the liberty of the world, consecrated action to support them in every possible way should be our part. Ministers, better than anybody else, can lead the people to see these great things in their true light.

Through the wiping out of nations and the demand upon man-power to fight battles against the enemy production has decreased, while the submarines have put vast continents out of consideration as a source of food. The United States of America alone stands today as a last resort to defend the world against food shortage. Hungry people lose courage. Serious food shortage in England, France and Italy means the danger of this most inhuman enemy fighting on American shores.

The Department of Agriculture desires the immediate help of the Ministers of the South. The time of planting in farms and gardens will soon be past. Whatever is done to secure production this year must be done quickly. Will you not as a pastor study the inclosed literature and speak to your people from your pulpit next Sunday, and also talk personally with them on every available occasion about these vital matters?

The Department of Agriculture is asking the South, as a means of self-defense and national defense, to produce its own food. In normal years, before the war, the South annually imported from the North six hundred million dollars' worth of food and feed, which she could have produced herself. Much improvement has been made in the past few years. We must produce a generous share of food and feed crops now, (1) FOR LOCAL USE, to insure an adequate home supply, to relieve all burdens upon other sections, to release supplies elsewhere, and to reduce to the lowest all

burden upon transportation, and (2) FOR MARKETING, to sustain the civil population of this country, to keep our Army and Navy in full fighting vigor, and to supplement the depleted resources of the nations associated with us in the war.

No section of the country must ask other sections to produce its food, nor must it ask the taking of railroad cars to bring food to it, when both the food and the car service are needed to take food to congested centers of population, to our Army and Navy, and to foreign countries in order that we may be free.

The war will be won or lost on our ability to produce food for the purposes indicated above. You will be rendering the greatest possible service to the nation if, during March and April, you give the greatest possible amount of time to these vital matters.

The United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State Agricultural Colleges, has a very extensive force of field workers among rural men and women, boys and girls. We ask you to get in touch with the State Extension Service, and especially with your local County Agricultural Agent and your County Home Demonstration Agent, and find out what they are doing toward the solution of this very important problem, and assist them in every possible way in their work. They may desire your help in speaking before farmers' gatherings and on other occasions.

The message is an important one. We count upon you.

Anticipating your interest and cooperation, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Bradford Knapp.

Chief.

Enclosures.

